

Current Cigarette Smoking Among Adults — United States, 2005–2014

MMWR Introduction

CDC assessed the most recent national estimates of smoking prevalence among adults aged ≥ 18 years using data from the 2014 National Health Interview Survey. The findings indicate that the proportion of US adults who smoke cigarettes declined from 20.9% in 2005 to 16.8% in 2014; declines were also observed in the proportions of daily smokers who smoked 20–29 (34.9% to 27.4%) or ≥ 30 cigarettes per day (12.7% to 6.9%). In 2014, prevalence of cigarette smoking was higher among males, adults aged 25–44 years, multiracial or American Indian/Alaska Natives, and those who have a general education development (GED) certificate, live below the federal poverty level, live in the Midwest, are insured through Medicaid or are uninsured, have a disability or limitation, or are lesbian, gay, or bisexual.

Sustained comprehensive state tobacco control programs funded at CDC-recommended levels could accelerate progress towards reducing the health and economic burden of tobacco-related diseases in the United States. However, during 2015, despite combined revenue of \$25.6 billion from settlement payments and tobacco taxes for all states, states will spend only \$490.4 million (1.9%) on comprehensive tobacco control programs, representing $<15\%$ of the CDC-recommended level of funding for all states combined. Moreover, only two states (Alaska and North Dakota) currently fund tobacco control programs at CDC-recommended levels. Implementation of comprehensive tobacco control interventions can result in substantial reductions in tobacco-related morbidity and mortality and billions of dollars in savings from averted medical costs. Additionally, states can work with health-care systems, insurers, and purchasers of health insurance to improve coverage and use of tobacco cessation treatments and to implement health systems changes that make tobacco dependence treatment a standard of clinical care.

MMWR Highlights

Percentage of people aged ≥ 18 years who were current cigarette smokers, by age

- The percentage of 18- to 24-year olds who were current cigarette smokers decreased from 24.4% in 2005 to 16.7% in 2014.
- The percentage of 25- to 44-year olds who were current cigarette smokers decreased from 24.1% in 2005 to 20.0% in 2014.
- The percentage of 45- to 64-year olds who were current cigarette smokers decreased from 21.9% in 2005 to 18.0% in 2014.
- The percentage of those aged ≥ 65 who were current cigarette smokers did not change and was 8.6% in 2005 and 8.5% in 2014.

Percentage of people aged ≥ 18 years who were current cigarette smokers, by race/ethnicity

- The percentage of white adults who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 21.9% in 2005 to 18.2% in 2014.
- The percentage of black adults who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 21.5% in 2005 to 17.5% in 2014.
- The percentage of Hispanic adults who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 16.2% in 2005 to 11.2% in 2014.
- The percentage of American Indian/Alaskan Native adults who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 32.0% in 2005 to 29.2% in 2014.
- The percentage of Asian adults who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 13.3% in 2005 to 9.5% in 2014.

Percentage of people aged ≥ 18 years who were current cigarette smokers, by education level

- The percentage adults with 0 to 12 years of education, and no diploma, who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 25.5% in 2012 to 22.9% in 2014.
- The percentage adults with an 8th grade or less education level who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 17.1% in 2005 to 13.7% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults with a 9th through 11th grade education level who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 32.6% in 2005 to 29.5% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults with a 12th grade education level, and no diploma, who are current cigarette smokers was 26.0% in 2005 and 25.7% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults with a GED who are current cigarette smokers was 43.2% in 2005 and 43.0% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults who are high school graduates and who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 24.6% in 2005 to 21.7% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults who had some college education, but no diploma, who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 23.5% in 2005 to 19.7% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults with an associate degree who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 20.9% in 2005 to 17.1% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults with an undergraduate degree who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 10.7% in 2005 to 7.9% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults with a graduate degree who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 7.1% in 2005 to 5.4% in 2014.

Percentage of people aged ≥ 18 years who were current cigarette smokers, by poverty status

- The percentage of adults at or above the poverty level who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 20.6% in 2005 to 15.2% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults below the poverty level who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 29.9% in 2005 to 26.3% in 2014.

Percentage of people aged ≥ 18 years who were current cigarette smokers, by US Census Region

- The percentage of adults living in the Northeast who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 19.2% in 2005 to 15.3% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults living in the Midwest who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 24.2% in 2005 to 20.7% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults living in the South who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 21.8% in 2005 to 17.2% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults living in the West who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 17.0% in 2005 to 13.1% in 2014.

Percentage of people aged ≥ 18 years who were current cigarette smokers, by health insurance coverage

- The percentage of adults covered by Medicaid who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 34.9% in 2005 to 29.1% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults covered by Medicare who are current cigarette smokers was 12.5% in 2005 and 12.5% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults covered by private insurance who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 17.3% in 2005 to 12.9% in 2014.
- The percentage of adults covered by other public insurance who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 28.2% in 2005 to 21.1% in 2014.
- The percentage of uninsured adults who are current cigarette smokers decreased from 33.3% in 2005 to 27.9% in 2014.

Percentage of people aged ≥ 18 years who were current cigarette smokers, by disability or limitation

- The percentage of adults with a disability or limitation who are current cigarette smokers was 21.9% in 2014 (this question was not asked in the 2005 survey).
- The percentage of adults with no disability or limitation who are current cigarette smokers was 16.1% in 2014 (this question was not asked in the 2005 survey).

Percentage of people aged ≥ 18 years who were current cigarette smokers, by sexual orientation

- The percentage of straight adults who are current cigarette smokers was 16.6% in 2014 (this question was not asked in the 2005 survey).
- The percentage of gay/lesbian/bisexual adults who are current cigarette smokers was 23.9% in 2014 (this question was not asked in the 2005 survey).